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MOUNTAIN EAST-WEST AND NORTH-SOUTH TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR

HERITAGE RESOURCES DOCUMENTATION

JULY 1982

URBAN DOCUMENTATION CENTRE
RESEARCH UNIT FOR URBAN STUDIES
McMASTER UNIVERSITY
HAMILTON, ONTARIO

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HERITAGE RESOURCES

a) Archaeology

Within the study area, archaeological evidence indicates that old Indian settlements occurred as early as the Laurentian Archaic period (5000 - 3000 B.C.) and during the Middle Woodland period (3000 B.C. - 0 A.D.). Modern Indian tribes included the Neutrals and Senecas of the Iroquois language group, and later the Mississaugas of the Ojibwa nation.

In 1615, Etienne Brule encountered the Neutral nation, numbering about 35,000, in this area. The Neutral nation occupied the territory until the 1650's, when they were eliminated by the Five Nation's Iroquois. In 1669, when De La Salle visited the area, the Neutrals had been destroyed by the Seneca Iroquois.

The Senecas ceded the land, later known as Barton and Saltfleet Township, to Great Britain at the time of the American Revolution in 1776.

In terms of prehistoric archaeological sites within the corridor, no such cultural remains were encountered which should be studied further, excavated or preserved. This is due to the areas under study being heavily disturbed with very little contextual information remaining.

b) Cultural Landscape

The Study Area forms a portion of the territory that was purchased from the Mississauga Indians in the late 1700's. This migratory Ojibwa nation inhabited the land ceded by the Senecas to the British. The British purchased this land from the Mississaugas for one-tenth of a penny per acre.

The Five Nations were also resettled in Wentworth County, given land claims by the British for being allies in the War of American Independence.

The First Survey:

The Townships in Wentworth County, along with several others in the Niagara region, were surveyed by Augustus Jones, deputy land surveyor, who arrived from the U.S. in 1784 and resided in Stoney Creek.

Jones laid out the Township of Barton in eight concessions. The dividing roads from Burlington Bay southward were as follows: Burlington Street, Barton Street, Main Street, Aberdeen Street, Concession Street, Fennel Avenue, Mohawk Road, Limeridge Road and Stonechurch Road. These concession roads are 5/8 of a mile apart. The north/south roads were laid out 1/2 mile apart and are now known as: Strathearne Avenue, Kenilworth Avenue, Ottawa Street, Gage Avenue, Sherman Avenue, Wentworth Street, Wellington Street, James Street, Queen Street, Dundurn Street and Paradise Road.

This layout provided two 100-acre farms to a block and 21 such farms in each concession.

In surveying both Barton and Saltfleet Townships, Jones used the front-and-rear system, marking the base line and circling a line around the township, then running the side roads and marking the lot corners on them. The lot corners became the lines for later concession roads.

Early Settlement:

i) Barton Township

In 1805 there were only 112 ratepayers in Barton Township and most of those lived below the mountain(1). As late as 1823, the mountain assessment was only £8850(2). In 1823, there were three sawmills and one grist mill in the township. The grist

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(1) *"Barton on the Mountain: A Short History of that part of Barton Township above the City of Hamilton".* Wentworth Bygones, *Vol. 1, 1956, p.11.*

(2) *ibid, p.11.*

mill was owned by Jacob Rymal, a mountain resident. These mills were powered by creeks fed by springs. Some of the first settlers lived near Hess Creek, which was once considered as a possible source of water for the City of Hamilton.

It is contended that the first settlement on the mountain started around the head of the Chedoke Ravine. The first arrivals were established before 1890. By this time, land below the mountain, where Hamilton is situated, was being taken up rapidly. New arrivals who sought several hundred acres of free land for farming were attracted by the unoccupied tracts on the mountain. Among the newcomers was a group of Pennsylvania Germans.

An early mountain industry was a lime quarry which was taken from the James Marshall farm. Limeridge Road was so named because the juncture of Limeridge Road and the Caledonia Highway was the seat of the industry. Lime from the Barton quarry was used in the City of Hamilton in the building industry. Other quarries were located on the mountain on top of "Jolly Cut" Road.

ii) Saltfleet Township

Saltfleet Township, which is 28,295 acres in size, was one of seven townships surveyed in 1788 by Augustus Jones. This area was surveyed to accommodate a large number of Loyalist refugees from the United States.

Saltfleet was first settled by Loyalists, some of whom squatted on the lands of their choice prior to the Crown survey. The township was rapidly occupied, but because most settlers were granted several lots (as in Barton Township), the first assessment roll of 1816 lists only 102 family households. Most of the lots were 100 and 200 acre parcels. The total assessed value of the land at that time was £10,151.[1]

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(1) *Saltfleet Then and Now - 1792 to 1973 ed. by K. Dwyer, J. Bell & H. O. Bridgman, 1975, p.20.*

There were no mills in Barton or Saltfleet Townships during the first years of settlement. A grist mill was established by the Davis family in Mount Albion prior to the War of 1812. Three sawmills and a grist mill were later established in Mount Albion, which is situated on the mountain four miles southeast of Hamilton in the western portion of Saltfleet Township. In 1880, the community was inhabited by approximately fifty persons of English and Scottish descent. Three hotels, two blacksmith shops and one general store served the district.

The main thoroughfare through the settlement was aptly named Mud Street. A stone toll road to the City of Hamilton was built in 1880 and a toll-gate was built near the Village of Mount Albion. One-half mile west of Mount Albion, the Hamilton and North Western Railroad was built in the 1870's.

One of the most prominent early settlers in Mount Albion was the Davis family who were Loyalists from South Carolina. This family received 2300 acres of land from the Crown (administered by John Graves Simcoe) as payment for their support of the British and losses incurred during the American Revolution.

William Davis and sons started the Albion Mills grist and sawmills. In 1795, they erected a sawmill on the ravine and shortly after that they built a grist mill. These mills were two of the earliest industries in the district. During the War of 1812, the mills turned out supplies for the British and settler armies. The mill portion of the Davis property was purchased by Elijah Secord in 1814. The mills prospered for over a century, until 1907 when a miller fell to his death and the business came to an end. Today, a large wheel pit is the only remnant of this era.

The Davis family also owned an estate near the Village. The family homestead, Harmony Hall, was built by William Davis circa 1803. This home is believed to be standing at the southwest corner of Mud Street and Mount Albion Road, however, early documentation is unclear as to whether this structure was the home of the Davis family or an inn owned by the family.(1)

In 1840, on the hill situated south of Albion Falls, was a 5-storey stone castle built by Mr. William Cook. This home had 14 fireplaces, and was surrounded by 10 acres of parkland. The estate covered 400 acres and was situated at the crossroads of four townships: Saltfleet, Barton, Benbrook and Glanford. Huge barns were erected for large-scale farming.

The site of Cook's castle had previously been occupied by a large barracks building for British soldiers that was built in 1817. No remnants of either building remain today. In the 1870's, Mr. Cook died; fire destroyed the barns; the estate was lost to the family; and the castle, known as "Cook's folly" was torn down. Today, all that remains are two small lakes and the land is owned by the Conservation Authority.

A mile down the valley, north of Mount Albion was the Vine Vale farm, where hops were produced on a large scale. Part of this farm is now occupied by the Glendale Golf Course.

The Later Years:

Both Barton and Saltfleet Townships have been altered from their original states by encroachment of suburban development. Along the proposed east/west corridor of the Mountain Highway, the early pattern of farm

(1) *The Hamilton L.A.C.A.C. believes that this structure is a former inn owned by the Davis family rather than the Davis homestead, Harmony Hall. Based on their research findings, they believe that the home was located north of Mud Street, at the brow of the mountain.*

lots have been subdivided into small lots for homes built generally in the 1940's to 1960's era. Only one significant historical structure, an old lime kiln on the east side of Upper James Street below Limeridge Road, remains in this area. An old victorian farmhouse on the west side of Garth Street was identified as a vestige of the rural landscape. This building will be removed by the widening of Garth Street. Another structure, an early 1900's Georgian-style house, located on Mohawk Road, west of Upper Horning Road, was also identified as an attractive older farmhouse in the proposed highway right-of-way. The latter two buildings were not considered to be significant from either an architectural or a historical perspective.

The north/south portion of the proposed Mountain Highway will mainly impact on structures located in Mount Albion, along Mud Street. Two historically significant structures have been identified in this area. One building, 197 Mud Street, is an old limestone structure which was formerly a blacksmith shop. Another structure, 158 Mud Street, was either the former home of the Davis family, Harmony Hall, or an inn owned by this family. This structure is very old (built in the early 1800's) and is in a state of ill-repair.

It is proposed that the significant structures identified in this analysis be further examined to determine whether their preservation and relocation is required or whether photographic records of these buildings is sufficient.

Adverse Impacts on Heritage Resources

a) Archaeological Resources

Based on the archaeological field survey undertaken for this environmental assessment, the prehistoric archaeological sites discovered were too significantly disturbed to determine site boundaries. Traces of cultural remnants were almost non-existent, and only one section of the corridor analyzed - Upper Horning Mountain Road to Upper Mountain Road - produced two prehistoric archaeological fragments. The heavy disturbance of the areas under examination is the reason for the lack of contextual information remaining.

b) Cultural Landscape

As noted previously, few remnants of the early settlement patterns of Barton and Saltfleet Townships exist today. This is largely due to encroachment of urban development from the City of Hamilton. However, a few heritage resources do exist within the corridor areas. These significant structures include an old lime kiln on the east side of Upper James Street, south of Limeridge Road, and two structures along Mud Street, east of Mount Albion Road. The latter two structures are an old blacksmith's shop (197 Mud Street), and a residence (158 Mud Street) that was either an inn or the homestead of the Davis family. The Davis family was a prominent loyalist family of settlers in Mount Albion.

In general, the impact of the roadway construction on prehistoric archaeological sites is minimal and not significant. The impact on heritage resources is minimal and can be mitigated through relocating these structures, should their removal be feasible. Preliminary estimates for relocating the building at 158 Mud Street are between $12,000 and $15,000, but this estimate could be low depending on the condition of the building.

The blacksmith's shop (197 Mud Street), and the lime kiln were roughly estimated to cost $10,000 each to move. The lime kiln likely would have to be disassembled to be moved and this involves another tactical problem. The exact destinations of where these buildings would be relocated, and the feasibility from a practical standpoint of moving these structures will have to be determined prior to construction, at the detailed design phase. Thus, these mitigating measures will lessen the impact of the proposed alignment on the heritage resources.

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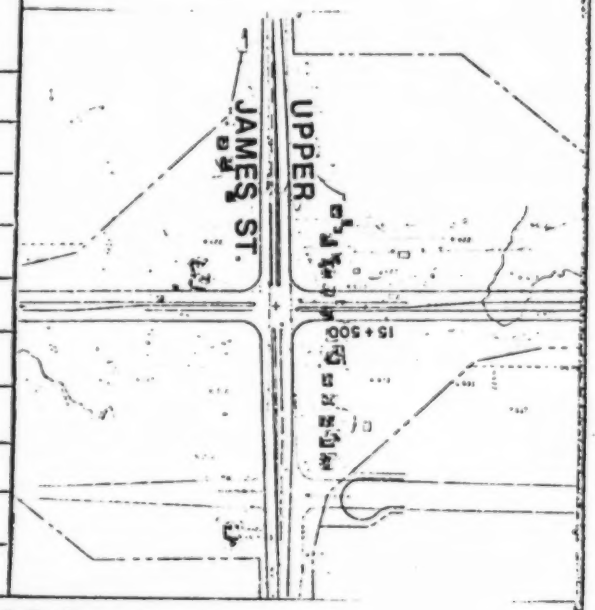
FIGURE 2.

A MAN-MADE HERITAGE RECORD FORM
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

NAME: LIME KILN	REFERENCE NO: DATE OF REPORT:

NATURE OF FEATURE: (Cultural Landscape, Building, Archaeological Site, Etc.)
Early industrial building

LOCATION: 1121 Upper James Street	LOT 14	CON 7
	TOWNSHIP Barton	
	COUNTY/R.M. Hamilton-Wentworth	
	1:50,000 MAP REF.	
	MILITARY GRID REF.	
	AIR PHOTO REF.	



DATING: early 1800's

ORIGINAL USE: Lime Kiln

CURRENT USE: abandoned

OWNERSHIP: Souter, B. and A.

DESCRIPTION: (Attributes of Cultural Landscape, Built Environment, Archaeology and Public Perceptions)

- old stone structure, cone-shaped roof - small square opening in front; approximately 5' in height. Last remnant of the early lime industry in Barton
- listed by L.A.C.A.C. as a significant structure

PRINTED, MANUSCRIPT OR PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDS:

Photograph

REPORTER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:
DeLCan
Consulting Engineers and Planners
133 Wynford Drive
Don Mills, Ontario
M3C 1K1

PHOTOS:

SKETCHES AND NOTES ON REVERSE SIDE:

A MAN-MADE HERITAGE RECORD FORM
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

NAME: FARM HOUSE

REFERENCE NO:
DATE OF REPORT:

NATURE OF FEATURE: (Cultural Landscape, Building, Archaeological Site, Etc.)
Building - Residential

LOCATION: 1184 Garth Street

LOT 19 | CON 7

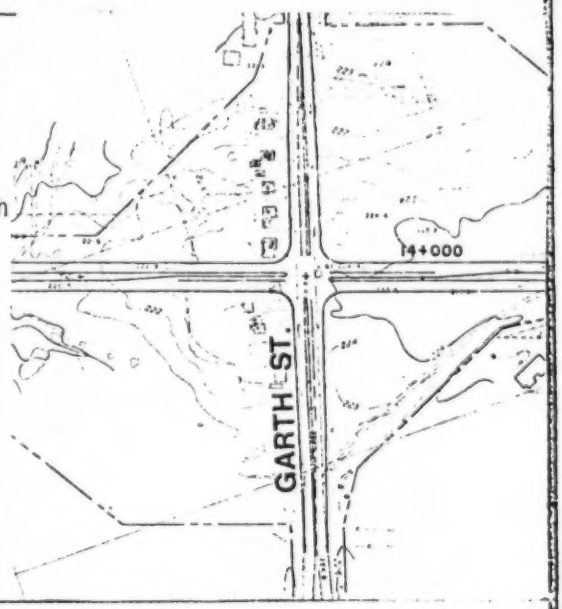
TOWNSHIP Barton

COUNTY/R.M. Hamilton-Wentworth

1:50,000 MAP REF.

MILITARY GRID REF.

AIR PHOTO REF.



DATING: late 19th centure

ORIGINAL USE: Residence

CURRENT USE: Residence

OWNERSHIP: Grafton, G.

DESCRIPTION: (Attributes of Cultural Landscape, Built Environment, Archaeology and Public Perceptions)

- two-storey red brick residence; 3 gables
- masonry arches above windows; centre hall design
- house, in general, appears to be in good condition

PRINTED, MANUSCRIPT OR PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDS:

Photograph

REPORTER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

DeLCan
Consulting Engineers and Planners
133 Wynford Drive
Don Mills, Ontario M3C 1K1

PHOTOS.

SKETCHES AND NOTES ON REVERSE SIDE:

FIGURE 2.

A MAN-MADE HERITAGE RECORD FORM
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

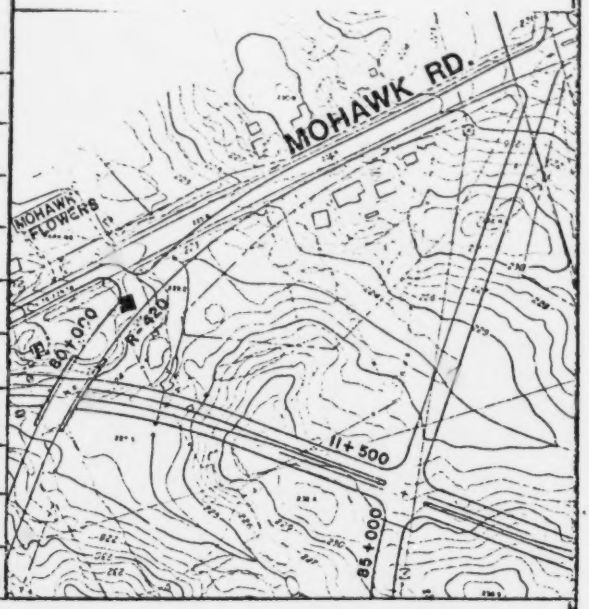
NAME: RESIDENCE

REFERENCE NO:
DATE OF REPORT:

NATURE OF FEATURE: (Cultural Landscape, Building, Archaeological Site, Etc.)
Residential Building

LOCATION: 1200 Mohawk Road

LOT 53	CON 2
TOWNSHIP	Ancaster
COUNTY/R.M.	Hamilton-Wentworth
1:50,000 MAP REF.	
MILITARY GRID REF.	
AIR PHOTO REF.	



DATING: early 1900's

ORIGINAL USE: Residence

CURRENT USE: Residence

OWNERSHIP: Region of Hamilton-Wentworth

DESCRIPTION: (Attributes of Cultural Landscape, Built Environment, Archaeology and Public Perceptions)

- two storey frame house, Georgian style, centre hall design and covered entrance
- new shutters on windows
- house, in general, appears to be in good condition

PRINTED, MANUSCRIPT OR PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDS:

Photograph

REPORTER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

DeLCan
Consulting Engineers and Planners
133 Wynford Drive
Don Mills, Ontario M3C 1K1

PHOTOS:

SKETCHES AND NOTES ON REVERSE SIDE:

FIGURE 2.

A MAN-MADE HERITAGE RECORD FORM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

NAME: DAVIS HOUSE

REFERENCE NO:
DATE OF REPORT:

NATURE OF FEATURE: (Cultural Landscape, Building, Archaeological Site, Etc.)
Building - Residential

LOCATION: 158 Mud St.

LOT 34 CON 7

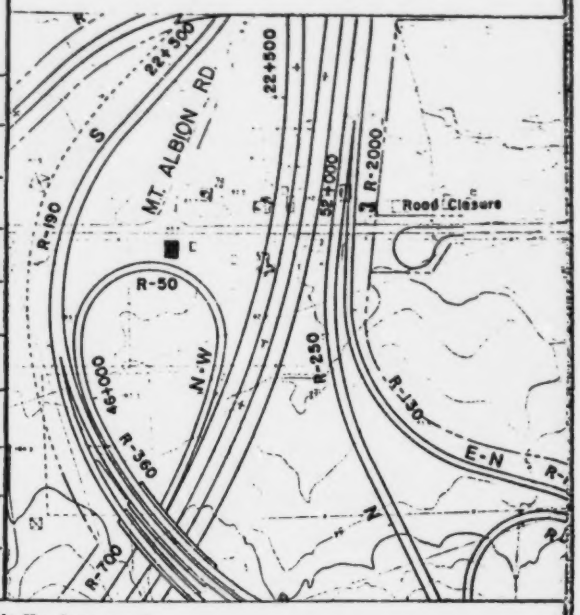
TOWNSHIP Saltfleet

COUNTY/R.M. Hamilton-Wentworth

1:50,000 MAP REF.

MILITARY GRID REF.

AIR PHOTO REF.



DATING: early 1800's

ORIGINAL USE: Residence or Inn

CURRENT USE: Residence

OWNERSHIP: Sarmor Properties Ltd.

DESCRIPTION: (Attributes of Cultural Landscape, Built Environment, Archaeology and Public Perceptions)

- two storey frame structure with stucco work on sides and back (stucco work done at a later date), Georgian style, colonial.
- first floor verandah and verandah balcony built on second floor. Outside staircase to second floor balcony on east side of house
- house in poor condition
- listed by L.A.C.A.C. as a historically significant structure

PRINTED, MANUSCRIPT OR PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDS:

Photograph

REPORTER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

DeLCan
Consulting Engineers and Planners
133 Wynford Drive
Don Mills, Ontario M3C 1K1

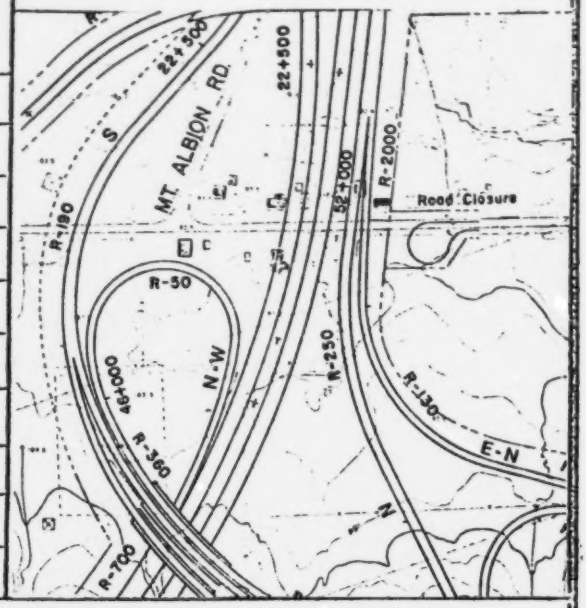
PHOTOS:

SKETCHES AND NOTES ON REVERSE SIDE:

FIGURE 2.

A MAN-MADE HERITAGE RECORD FORM
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

NAME: BLACKSMITH SHOP	REFERENCE NO: DATE OF REPORT:
NATURE OF FEATURE: (Cultural Landscape, Building, Archaeological Site, Etc.) Industrial - Blacksmith Shop	
LOCATION: 197 Mud Street LOT 30 CON 6 TOWNSHIP Saltfleet COUNTY/R.M. Hamilton-Wentworth 1:50,000 MAP REF. MILITARY GRID REF. AIR PHOTO REF.	
DATING: early 1800's	
ORIGINAL USE: Blacksmith Shop	
CURRENT USE: abandoned	
OWNERSHIP: Estate of R. Embleton	



DESCRIPTION: (Attributes of Cultural Landscape, Built Environment, Archaeology and Public Perceptions)

- old stone structure built circa 1816 was used as a blacksmith shop. Centre door with two windows, one or either side
- generally in poor condition
- listed by L.A.C.A.C. as a historically significant structure

PRINTED, MANUSCRIPT OR PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDS:	REPORTER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:
Photograph	DeLCan Consulting Engineers and Planners 133 Wynford Drive Don Mills, Ontario M3C 1K1

PHOTOS:

SKETCHES AND NOTES ON REVERSE SIDE: